

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UN, PFOR, CB, SF
SUBJ: CREDENTIALS 29TH UNGA

1. ALTHOUGH MISOFF HAD BEEN PROMISED BY SUY (UN LEGAL COUNSEL) NOTHING WOULD BE DONE ON CREDENTIALS UNTIL LATTER'S RETURN SEPT 3, MISOFF DOUBLE-CHECKED WITH SUY'S OFFICE AND RECEIVED TIP THAT IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO CHECK ELSEWEHERE.

2. ON BASIS TIP, MISOFF MET WITH UNDER-SYG BRADFORD MORSE. MORSE EXPRESSED PLEASURE MISOFF HAD RAISED ISSUE SINCE THERE WERE PROBLEMS AND MORSE HAD BEEN BARRED BY A PROMISE TO BENITES FROM RAISING THE ISSUE FOR US. AS PRESIDENT 28TH GA BENITES WILL BE PRESIDENT AT OPENING 29TH GA AND WILL BE THE ONE TO APPOINT THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

3. MORSE SAID BENITES HAS REFUSED ALLOW SECRETARIAT, PARTICULARLY SUY, TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CREDNETIALS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT AND INSISTS IT WHOLLY MATTER FOR PRESIDENT OF GA. BENITES REFUSED TO BE SWAYED BY FACT THAT FOR 28 YEARS LEGAL COUNSEL HAS BEEN PREPARING CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FOR PRESIDENTS. IT APPEARS BENITES, WHO WAS NEVER ABLE GET ALONG WITH FORMER UN LEGAL COUNCEL STAVROPOULOS, HAS SIMILAR INABILITY GET ALONG WITH SUY. CURRENT DIFFICULTY RELATES APPARENTLY TO MIX OF BENITES' OVERWHELMING PRIDE IN HIS OWN LEGAL SKILLS AND BRUISED SENSIBILITIES BECAUSE SUY TOOK THE POSITION THAT UNDER RULES OF PROCEDURE PRESIDENT PROTEM OF LAST SPRING'S SPECIAL SESSION WAS CHAIRMAN OF ECUADOREAN DELEGATION RATHER THAN PRESIDENT OF PRCEDING GA.

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4. MORSE REPORTS THAT BENITES INITIALLY HAD "ALL SORTS OF CRAZY IDEAS ABOUT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE INVOLVING GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION, INSISTENCE THAT NO MEMBERS REPEAT FROM LAST YEAR, ETC." MORSE BELIEVES HE HAS CALMED BENITES DOWN CONSIDERABLY AND HAS HIM "ALMOST ALL THE WAY BACK TO REASONABLE."

5. MORSE REPORTS BENITES' LATEST THINKING BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR LATIN AMERICA WAS CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF US, AUSTRIA, EL SALVADOR, VENEZUELA OR COLOMBIA, MAURITANIA, NIGERIA, INDONESIA OR PHILIPPINES, PRC AND USSR.

6. WHEN MISOFF SOUGHT TO QUESTION WISDOM OF SOME OF THESE POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS, MORSE URGED MISOFF TRY TO ACCEPT AS MUCH OF LIST AS POSSIBLE SINCE IT HAD BEEN NO EASY JOB TO GET BENITES THIS FAR AND BENITES DISINCLINED TOLISTEN TO ANYBODY "INCLUDING, PERHAPS IN PARTICULAR, A MAJOR POWER." MORSE SAID BENITES WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN UNTIL SEPT 12 AND THAT MORSE AND MISOFF WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS THE MATTER AGAIN BEFORE THEN. HE AGAIN HOWEVER URGED US TRY AND SEE OUR WAY CLEAR TO ACCEPTING PROPOSED LIST OR AT LEAST MOST OF IT.

7. MISOFF SAID THAT HE CERTAIN MORSE FULLY UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO ACHIEVING COMMITTEE MAJORITY OF WHICH WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL VIEW OF CREDENTIALS ISSUES PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH SOME WISHED TO POLITICIZE, E.G. KHMER AND SOUTH AFRICA. MISOFF SAID HE PRESUMED SECRETARIAT CONTINUED REGARD FUNCTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AS TECHNICAL ONE AND CONSEQUENTLY SHARED OUR GOAL.

8. MORSE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE WORK OUT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD PRODUCE DESIRED RESULT RE KHMER BUT HE ANTICIPATED GENUINE PROBLEMS RE SAG. MISOFF ARGUED THAT IF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP TOOK PROPER TECHNICAL VIEW OF FUNCTION IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE SOLVE BOTH KHMER AND SAG PROBLEMS SATISFACTORILY BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE PRODUCE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WITH A LEAST 5 TO 4 MAJORITY SUPPORTING KHMER AND 4 IN FAVOR, 4 AGAINST, AND ONE ABSTENTION ON SAG (WITH ABSTAINING DELEGATION VOTING IN FAVOR OF REPORT AS A WHOLE ONCE AMENDMENT RE SAG FAILED FOR LACK OF MAJORITY).

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9. MORSE QUESTIONED NEED TO WORRY ABOUT SAG QUESTION SINCE THERE STRONG INDICATIONS PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE BOUTEFELIKA PLANNING FOLLOW HAMBRO RULING. MISOFF SAID SCENARIO SURROUNDING HAMBRO RULING WAS WITH A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH ACCEPTED SAG CREDENTIALS AND AN OBJECTION FROM THE FLOOR AND ASKED WHETHER MORSE FELT COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT WITH CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE HAVING GONE THE FURTHER STEP, BOUTEFELIKA WOULD STILL BE WILLING

FOLLOW HAMBRO RULING. MORSE TOOK THE POINT AND SAID HE
WOULD WISH TO THINK ABOUT IT.

10. MORSE STRESSED TO MISOFF THAT NENITES HAD REQUESTED
MORSE TO TELL NO ONE ABOUT SITUATION.

11. ACTUALLY BASED ON LAST YEAR'S VOTING IN GA, CURRENT LIST
MORSE HAD GOTTEN BENITES DOWN TO NOT TOO BAD. WE PLAN
DISCREETLY SOUND KEY MEMBERS OUT IN NEXT FEW DAYS WITHOUT
TIPPING OUR HANDS. MORSE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER BENITES HAS
SPOKEN TO ANYONE ABOUT SERVING ON CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE BUT
THINKS HE MAY HAVE SPOKEN TO AUSTRIANS.

12. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BENITES IS OFF ON A PERSONAL EGO TRIP,
HE IS A FRIEND OF KHMER AND LIKELY WILL COME BACK TO EARTH
IN A NOT FUNDAMENTALLY UNHELPFUL POSTURE. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFLE

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